

REMARKS

Claims 53-70 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Biosurfactant encoding genes:

a) SEQ ID NO: 1

b) SEQ ID NO: 2

c) SEQ ID NO: 3

d) SEQ ID NO: 6

e) SEQ ID NO: 7

Plastic Degrading enzyme:

f) SEQ ID NO: 4

g) SEQ ID NO: 5

The Examiner has also required an election in the present application between:

Species a), *Aspergillus*;

Species b), *Penicillium*;

Species c), *Trichodera*;

Species d), *Rhizopus*;

Species e), *Magnaporthe*;

Species f), *Metarhizium*;

Species g), *Neurospora*;

Species h), *Monascus*;

Species i), *Acremonium*; and

Species j), *Mucor*.

For the purpose of examination, Applicants elect both SEQ ID NO:1 for the gene encoding the hydrophobin *Aspergillus oryzae* (Ro1A) for biosurfactant, and the gene encoding the cutinase of *Aspergillus oryzae* (Cut1.1) as a plastic degrading enzyme, with traverse. Further, Applicants elect the species, a) *Aspergillus*.

Claim(s) 53-70 are directed to the elected species. As acknowledged by the Examiner, at least claim(s) 53-56 and 60-65 are generic.

As is described in the last part of the section (3-3) of the specification, the above cutinase is a known enzyme, and no sequence is described in the specification.

Their isolation is described in Examples 1 and 3, respectively, and *Aspergillus* strains transformed by these genes have been deposited with the accession No. FERM P-19055 and No. FERM P-19054, respectively.

A transformant prepared by recombination by the use of the above two genes is also described in Example 8.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are linked by a single inventive concept in accordance with PCT Rule 13.1. Additionally all of the pending claims

contain a special technical feature as required by PCT Rule 13.2. Since unity of invention exists in the present claims, Applicants request that all of the pending claims be examined on the merits.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Thomas J. Siepmann, Ph.D., Registration No. 57,374 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- ☐ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☐ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  #69154

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